



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

CARELESSNESS IN APPLICANTS FOR REGISTRATION

DEAR EDITOR: In the handling of material concerned in the application of nurses for registration under the waiver, the members of the Board of Nurse Examiners of New York State have been much impressed by certain characteristics found in the filled application forms—some favorable, others unfavorable—of which, among the latter, are found all too frequent evidences of carelessness and a lack of business qualities. The very imperfect manner in which some of the forms have been returned to the department being so pronounced in altogether too large a percentage of these applications, this Board feels justified in making mention of the matter through the pages of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, not that we so much expect to influence the individual nurse, perhaps, as that we hope the attention and interest of those who are training nurses will be fixed upon this, and general sentiment increased against the sending into the department of such material.

The Board feels there should be positive evidence of professional pride on the part of all nurses seeking the benefits of registration, and that every nurse having dealings with the Department of Education should appreciate that that department is receiving impressions of the educational status of the women composing the ranks of our profession through the material sent into its offices.

To illustrate what is being referred to: first, we protest against the department being compelled to write two, three, and even six letters in some cases, in order to secure data as required in the forms issued to each applicant; second, the almost illegible penmanship in some cases; third, the very apparent failure to read directions; and, fourth, the carelessness in the arrangements of answers to questions as given.

Plainly speaking, we often feel that a better argument in support of the contention of the department for higher preliminary educational requirements could scarcely be found than is exhibited by the make-up of some of these application forms which a very young schoolgirl might well be ashamed to send out above her name.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS, New York State.

LINA LIGHTBOURNE, R.N., President.

A NEW FIELD OF WORK FOR GRADUATE NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: There is a new field of woman's work that is just dawning that should interest the graduate nurse—the registered dental nurse, the R.D.N. The idea is about six years old, quite in its swaddling clothes but squalling lustily for recognition. We have all seen the brave little damsel and her "votes for women" on the cover of a popular magazine. That infant is going to win this state and quite fairly too. Let me tell you a little about this other one.

I have followed the articles by eminent dentists in the dental magazines for and against the trained dental nurse, with the keenest concern for some time. The time is at hand when the graduate trained nurse can prove that she can excel in this special work. The work is big, and interesting and remunerative. These dentists need specially trained women to assist them in their work, just as much as surgeons and doctors need the trained medical and surgical nurse. They need women with good training and knowledge sufficient not to usurp any part of the ordinary dental practice. The graduate trained nurse has a splendid

foundation for this work. She is superior by virtue of the very principles that are inculcated in her training to surmount the principal argument against the "trained dental nurse." She knows her limitations. Who ever heard of a graduate trained nurse practising medicine or surgery? Dentistry is as vital a subject as either medicine or surgery. We study special diet for special diseases. We study every special plan for all kinds of cleanliness, external or internal, and then forget sometimes the avenue through which our special diet must pass, the buccal cavity. The teeth need special care other than mere brushing our teeth in health to avoid sickness. Every well-trained nurse knows how to care for a patient's mouth and does it, too, but how many in health and in sickness know how to brush the teeth properly? I'll quote to you the best description I could learn: "Always begin brushing the grinding surfaces of the back teeth with a backward and forward motion, keeping the bristles pointing rootward, rotating the brush from side to side, so that the bristles just miss the gums on both lingual and buccal surfaces. When brushing the lingual surfaces of the lower molar the tongue should be drawn well back so as to expose those surfaces of the teeth to the brush." This work is best learned at a recognized school in connection with a dental college, that is co-educational, and of recognized standards. Some special dentist could train one to his special ideals, **but such a one would be of value only to that one man.** I have learned by experience that it is best to get the training at school just as we get our medical and surgical training. Then we should have acquired the necessary foundational knowledge, a commencement of the work. Then some dentist who desires our services can mould us according to his ideals just as the surgeon and the doctor train us by power of their superior knowledge to their various requirements.

The trained dental nurse is to have for her studies the following: "The Regional Anatomy of the Head; The Freshman Course in Dental Anatomy; Special Course in the Study of Operative Instruments and Appliances; A Special Course in Anæsthetics and Physical Diagnosis; A Special Course in Oral Hygiene and Oral Antisepsis; A Special Course in Prophylaxis; A Special Course in Dental Medicine; A Special Course in Dental Bookkeeping and Care of the Office; A Special Course in the Study of Prosthetic Appliances and the Selection of Teeth; A Clinical Course of Actual Assistance at the Operative Chair." I am trying all I can to help. I see the wonderful possibilities of this work and I want to assist in interesting the very best women, from an educational standpoint, from every point of view, to help set the standard right at the start. The ever-present interest that I have always had in woman's work, in my fellow co-workers the nurses, prompts this little article to-day. I'll help any graduate nurse who writes to me and direct her to authorities.

ANITA CARY WALLACE,

Graduate of Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, Louisiana.

45 East 34th St.,
New York City.

AROUND-THE-WORLD LETTERS

(From a Letter Describing the Return Trip)

DEAR EDITOR: The next day we witnessed the departure of the Governor and his wife from Hong Kong. It was quite exciting. The British troops were on parade, the band played, and the Governor in a top hat inspected all the